



SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MARCH-APRIL 1984

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ORNITHOLOGY FILM PROGRAM

"IN CELEBRATION OF BIRDS," personally presented by Walt Liddell

Friday, March 23, 1984 - The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road, 8:00 p.m.

Birds are among the most intriguing creatures of the animal kingdom. Their grace and beauty have been a source of inspiration for poets, artists, musicians, and scientists. They give pleasure to millions of people in all walks of life who are just content to watch them as they go about their daily activities.

Capturing on film the beauty and unusual patterns of behavior of birds is a challenging, but highly rewarding endeavor. Walt Liddell, a St. Louis photographer, focused his camera on his first avian subjects, a pair of robins, in the spring of 1957. In the years since he has recorded thousands of images of over 600 species worldwide.

All of the birds in this program, over 150 species, were photographed in the contiguous 48 states, several of them within a few miles of St. Louis. Many will be familiar to all while some, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, only to dedicated birders. The stately grace of the great blue heron, the delicate shadings of the wing pattern of the great horned owl, the intricate flight maneuvers of the long-billed curlew will all be shown. From East Coast to West Coast every major habitat is represented -- sea, shore, swamp, desert, and mountains.

Walt's pictures have won many prizes in photographic competition, and they have been exhibited in several galleries. This is a special event of the Saint Louis Audubon Society and one you must not miss. Mark the date, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, on your calendar, and plan to see Walt's pictures and visit with him after the showing.

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Connie Hath
2109 Briargate Lane
965-8642

AUDUBON SOCIETY EDUCATION CENTER

104 Lewis Road
Crescent, Missouri 63018
938-6123



Saint Louis Audubon Society

THE SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

cordially invites you and your guests to attend the annual dinner meeting, Tuesday, May 15, 1984, at the Junior League, Westroads Court, 8250 Clayton Road.

Mr. Charles Hoessle, Director of the St. Louis Zoo, guest speaker. His topic will be "Endangered Animals."

Cocktails - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Reservations necessary. No tickets mailed. Tables for eight may be arranged. Guests numbering four in party may arrange group seating. On the back of the reservation form list names of guests.

RESERVATION FORM -- SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

Enclosed is check for \$ _____ covering _____ reservations at \$15.00 each, including tax and tip.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____

Make checks payable to Saint Louis Audubon Society. Mail with reservation form to:

Saint Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63122

For additional information call Dinner Chairman Patricia Brush, 865-2886, or Connie Hath, 965-8642. Deadline for reservations: May 12.



FALL AND WINTER BIRDING



Jack Van Benthuyzen

It's been a great fall and winter for birding! I should say "Great" with a capital "G" for they have been the seasons for the "Gs." First, fall was a season of the grebes, and then winter was a season for the gulls.

The month of November was highlighted first by the common occurrence of the Horned Grebe, a bird usually uncommon to rare in the fall. Some persons reported as many as six or seven Horned Grebes in one day. Then came a report on Thanksgiving, November 24, that a Western Grebe was found at Horseshoe Lake just at the end of Layton Road. This bird hung around for several weeks, which proved long enough for it to be seen by many observers. It was a light phase (Clarkii) of the Western Grebe and was thought to be the first of that type to be seen in this area. Next, on December 8, Bill Rudden found a Red-necked Grebe that offered excellent comparison between the two very rare grebe species. Bonaparte's Gulls were found in large numbers by the birders who came to see the grebes.

Lake Carlyle was the spot where a Black-legged Kittiwake found residence at the dam from December 9 until well into January. An even rarer gull, the Lesser Black-backed Gull was discovered at the same spot by Skip Russell on December 14. It was in almost adult plumage and gave many observers an excellent look at this rarity.

But the Lesser Black-backed Gull was not the rarest gull to be found this winter. Bill Rudden located a gull at the foot of Grand Avenue on the Mississippi River on December 20. He was unable to nail down the identification of this bird even after seeing it again on the twenty-third and again on the twenty-sixth. Unless one has tried to "sort out" gulls and make a positive identification such as this, one cannot imagine the difficulty Bill had. He knew it was different and knew he was lucky to keep seeing it again and again.

Finally on December 31, at the river just off Riverview Drive at the I-270 bridge, the gull was again seen. This time it was less than 200 yards away. Bill Rudden, Ron Goetz, Phoebe Snetsinger, and Dick Anderson studied the gull a long time, only to finally decide it was a Slaty-back Gull. This was a very difficult identification in view of the fact it was the first recorded sighting for the lower 48 states. It is even considered rare to be found in Alaska, and the nearest record to St. Louis was from British Columbia.

St. Louis had never recorded a bird as rare as the Slaty-back Gull. What followed in the next four weeks was typical of discoveries such as Ross' Gull in Massachusetts a few years ago, or more recently the Reef Heron on Cape Cod. Birders from as far away as Maine came here to try to see the Slaty-back, and Bill Rudden's telephone rang off the wall. It is hard to assure a birder from Maine that the bird will still be here after the birder arrives by plane from the east! No record was kept of all who came, but birders from Chicago, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio began to be a common sight at either the Riverview Drive sight or Alton Dam. Bill Rudden had certainly given St. Louis its day in the sun -- as far as bird rarities go.

Although the crest had passed, rare gulls still appeared. A Great Black-backed Gull appeared at Alton Dam to join the Slaty-back and the several Glaucous Gulls. I almost forgot to mention the Glaucous Gulls and Thayer's Gulls that were seen by many of the birders trying to track down the Slaty-back. In other winters these last two gulls would have been worthy of greater mention.

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SLATY-BACK GULL BECOMES MISSOURI'S 376TH SPECIES

Missouri had not added a species to the state list in four years, but this December 1983 two species were added. Early in the winter a retired conservation agent living in Marshall, Harold Hoey, saw a band-tailed pigeon at his feeder. The bird, native to the Southwest into Mexico, provided the first sighting in Missouri and became species 375. Less than a month later, along came the slaty-back gull to become species 376.



RECOUNTING THE ANNUAL EAGLE COUNT

About 125 people participated in the Saint Louis Audubon Society annual northern bald eagle count on Saturday, February 4. This included a group of students from Principia Middle School.

A total of 149 bald eagles was seen. Of this number 87 were adults and 62 immature. Three golden eagles were seen in the Saverton area.

In 1983, the Society's count resulted in 152 eagles, and of this total 99 were adults and 53 immatures. That year golden eagles were also seen near Saverton.

The National Wildlife midwinter count was down about 1,800 birds nationwide. However, the count results always depend on a number of factors, including the weather and the number of participants. We believe that the eagle is making a strong comeback.



FOREST PARK SPRING BIRD WALKS

The last two Sundays in April (April 22 and 29) and the first two Sundays in May (May 6 and 13) the St. Louis Audubon Society will sponsor bird walks in Forest Park. Meet in back of the Art Museum at 8:30 a.m. Leaders will be on hand. Coordinators are Cynthia Roth and Martin Schweig. Year after year these spring walks have produced more spring migrants than any other site.

Friday, April 27, 1984



CLINT DENN

*The Golden Sea
of Cortez*

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1984, THE ETHICAL SOCIETY
9001 CLAYTON ROAD, 8:00 p.m.

The Sea of Cortez or Gulf of California although, formed more than ten million years ago, is the world's youngest sea. It teems with marine life, including fish so numerous that they often darken the waters. The mainland of Mexico lies to the east. On the west, Baja, California, an 800-mile extension of California, forms a barrier between the sea and the Pacific Ocean. This primeval land, consisting of desert and jungle, natural bays and rugged mountains is a sanctuary for deer, birds and jaguar.

Clint Denn, naturalist-photographer, will personally present his outstanding film, THE GOLDEN SEA OF CORTEZ. He will share with you his exciting experiences in the field and bring you the splendors of nature.

This is the last film of the 1983-84 series. The first film of the 1984-85 series will be shown on Friday, October 5, 1984 at The Ethical Society. In September you will be mailed a schedule of the programs with dates and speakers. This coming series promises to be many great adventures in nature.

Thank you for helping "fill the baskets" for without this assistance it would be most difficult to continue bringing you nature films. We look forward to seeing you at this first of the new series on Friday, October 5, 1984.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHECK LIST OF BIRDS OF THE ST. LOUIS AREA

The long awaited revision of the Saint Louis Audubon Society Check List of the Birds of the St. Louis Area will be available for your use this spring. This check list was compiled for the Society by Jack Van Benthuyzen, the immediate past president of the Saint Louis Audubon Society, an eminent ornithologist and an authority on the birds of this area. Watch the Bulletin for date of publication, price and source. Don't go birding without this check list!

Saint Louis Audubon Society Recommends . . .

NEW! Published February 1984

Passages of a Stream: A Chronicle of the Meramec
by James P. Jackson

Should the Meramec have been dammed? In 1978, nearly two-thirds of the voters in eastern Missouri said NO, calling for a halt in construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam would have stopped this free-flowing Ozark stream as it meanders toward the Mississippi just below St. Louis.

Besides providing an account of the dam controversy, Passages of a Stream traces the Meramec from its prehistoric beginnings, explaining in laymen's terms the geological differences between Ozark streams and those in other regions; the limestone caves and "spongeworks," the springs and sediments, the eons-old bluffs and ever-shifting bars. Jackson also describes the flora and fauna in and around the Meramec as well as their relation to their habitat. He then defines the historical and cultural significance of the first humans to inhabit the valley. Next, he moves into the more recent past of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, when the effect of farming and industry began to undermine the vitality of the stream and valley, when flood control and pollution became legitimate concerns.

Price \$9.95 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Shop your local book shops, and if not found, write St. Louis Audubon Society.

Banquets for Birds

National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022

Songbirds have a standing invitation to dine at the homes of most Audubon members. National Audubon Society has just published a booklet with tips on what to do when birds arrive. It answers questions: What foods are appropriate? How should they be served? How can unwanted guests be discouraged?

This booklet explains how to use feeders to attract select species or a proletarian variety. It lists the common bird foods and their relative attractiveness to different species. The booklet, Banquets for Birds, is a good guide for the beginner and contains facts that may surprise the old hand. Available at cost (\$1.60, including postage) from Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

TOUR . . . GREAT GARDENS OF ENGLAND, May 31 - June 14, 1984

This is a special interest and custom-designed tour conducted by Barbara Perry Lawton, noted horticultural writer and vice president of the Saint Louis Audubon Society. You are invited to join Barbara on this very special tour to discover the beauty, magic and legendary background of the GREAT GARDENS OF ENGLAND. Rate: \$2,290 double. Call Barbara Lawton, 821-0794, for details.



Saint Louis Audubon Society Recommends . . .

TOUR . . . THE MAGIC OF IRELAND, June 4 - 21, 1984

"Cead Mile Failte" — A hundred thousand welcomes to the very special MAGIC OF IRELAND where Shirley Dooley of Webster Groves and Jimmy Kelly of Ireland will be your personal escorts through enchanted Ireland. This is their tenth Irish tour. You will arrive with wonderment and starry eyes and leave with a bit of longing always to return, as your heart will be in this land ever after. For a brochure write St. Louis Audubon Society or Shirley Dooley, 315 Oakwood Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri 63119.

ELECTRIC FENCES KILL HUMMINGBIRDS

You may never know it from the activity at your feeders, but the ruby-throated hummingbirds are in a population decline for unexplained reasons. One reason, though, may be too much curiosity.

Last year was an exceptional autumn for hummingbirds, perhaps because the drouth crippled the bloom of fall flowers that hummingbirds usually depend on for food.

Instead, the birds congregated at feeders. But in the search for nectar to fuel their hot little internal engines, the birds began investigating anything that looked like a flower -- sometimes with fatal results.

Jim D. Wilson, ornithologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, discovered that hummingbirds were perching on electric fence wires and probing crevices in red insulators, thinking they had found a food source. Either the bird's beak or tongue touches the metal fence post, creating a short that kills the bird.

It has been narrowed down that the only damaging insulator is Red Snap'r, manufactured by North Central Plastics of Ellendale, Minnesota. Many states have complained, but the insulators continue in production.

This is one of the most important non-game bird problems we have faced. People can help in three ways: (1) Don't buy the offending insulators; (2) return the ones on hand and exchange them for safe-colored ones or insulators four or more inches long; (3) spray paint Red Snap'r insulators already

installed. The problem was not deliberately created, but rather is accidental. Neither people with electric fences nor the manufacturer realized they were creating a problem. The solution is simple -- fence builders should not buy red, orange or yellow insulators, and manufacturers shouldn't make them in those colors.

The decline of the ruby-throat, Missouri's only hummingbird species, is puzzling. The Audubon Society has them on its Blue List, which is a "watch list" of animal species that are in trouble.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds, called by John James Audubon "a glittering fragment of the rainbow," are less than four inches long but migrate 2,000 miles each way annually, south to Costa Rica, on wings that flicker 55 times a second.

Ruby-throated hummingbirds generally lay two eggs but may nest twice a season. However, there is considerable mortality, and with electric fences that use red insulators, there is more mortality than the species can tolerate.



Coming Events

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1984, 7:45 p.m., the Photography Section will meet at the Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Association auditorium, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves. Rita Wilson, who attended one of the Audubon Camps last summer, will give an insight on the activities enjoyed there, illustrated with her own photography. Biologist Dorothy Cole and her husband, Alex, will use their pictures and words to illustrate personal impressions of several of the Audubon Camps.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1984, 7:45 p.m., the Photography Section will meet at the Clayton Federal Savings and Loan Association auditorium, Elm and Lockwood. Clarence Zacher, who 27 years ago was associated with United States project "WHITE ALICE," will tell of experiences in the communications network behind the DEW Line in the Arctic reaches. Clarence says he especially wants to point up the quality difference between today's films and those of a quarter century ago.

Fred Helfesreider, a professional photographer whose experience with cameras runs from tiny miniatures to one as big as an ordinary livingroom, will present a collection of slides.

James McCaskill's "STORMS" is a unique presentation employing slides, recordings and narration. He'll give some tips on this difficult photography.

MAY 26 (27) and JUNE 9 (10) NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP. Registration blank in this BULLETIN. Classes limited so please send in your registration form and check NOW.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984 at 7:45 p.m., the Photography Section will meet at the Clayton Federal Savings and Loan auditorium, Elm and Lockwood. Lee and Ed Mason will present "THE HIGH COUNTRY" with some special tips on considerations necessary when photographing in mountain areas.

Dates, places and times of the various photography walks will be announced at the above indoor meetings.

NOTICE

Jack Van Benthuyzen, immediate past president of the Saint Louis Audubon Society, has been appointed chairman of the Nominating Committee. If you have a suggestion, first obtain consent of the person to serve on the board and then write Jack Van Benthuyzen, 217 Sylvester, Webster Groves, Missouri 63119. All suggestions should be in writing. The Nominating Committee will report at the annual meeting, May 15, at the Junior League.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Dates and Time: Saturday, May 26, 1984 (rain date Sunday, May 27)
Saturday, June 9, 1984 (rain date Sunday, June 10)
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Saint Louis Audubon Education Center
Crescent, Missouri. West on I-44, exit Lewis Road.
Keep to the right on Lewis Road for one mile to the
Center entrance on your left.

Fee: \$25 per person. Limited enrollment.

Learn to really see and enjoy the wonders and beauty of nature and put them on film. This workshop is designed for both beginning and experienced photographers who use a 35mm single lens reflex camera. Close-up will be emphasized.

Covered: Exposure, focus, composition, lighting, use of flash, filters, film, lenses, accessories, helpful gadgets you can make, tips on care of equipment, troubleshooting, clothing for outdoor photography, and a bagful of useful hints to simplify and better your photography. Extensive printed notes covering the instruction will be supplied each participant.

Bring camera, film, flash, lenses, tripod, cable release, notebook, pencil, and plastic trash bag. Bring lunch. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for the outdoors.

Instructors: Lee F. Mason and Edward M. Mason are free-lance photographer-writers who have had over 200 articles, with their photographs, published here and abroad. They regularly conduct photography workshops for Missouri University, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Zoo, and various adult education programs.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for the Nature Photography Workshop at the Saint Louis Audubon Education Center, 104 Lewis Road, Crescent, Missouri, Saturday, May 26, and Saturday, June 9. In case of rain either day I understand the workshop will be held the next day.

FEE: \$25.00 NAME: _____

Make check payable to: ADDRESS: _____

St. Louis Audubon Society

PHONE: _____

and mail to:

St. Louis Audubon Society

2109 Briargate Lane

St. Louis, Missouri 63122

You need not be an Audubon member to participate.

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY EDUCATION CENTER

APRIL AND MAY PROGRAMS

ALL programs will be held at the Saint Louis Audubon Society Education Center, 104 Lewis Road, Crescent, Missouri (off I-44 just west of Tyson Park). These programs are open to all who are interested in outdoor activities and the natural world. A small donation is requested (see reservation blank) to help defray expenses. If you would care to make a larger donation, it would be gratefully accepted.

Reservations are requested one week prior to programs. Include a check for the full amount of programs you wish to attend. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Note the hours of the programs and bring a sack lunch and drink if you wish. For further information call the Saint Louis Audubon Society, 965-8642.

APRIL 1984

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Tree and Shrub Identification with Katherine Chambers, Saint Louis Audubon Society member. Join Katherine Chambers and Gary Shackelford, convenor, for a survey of early spring woody plants at the Audubon Education Center. Twig and bark identification will be emphasized, but developing leaves of some species will also be studied. Bring hand lens and binoculars.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, from 8:30 a.m. to noon

Early Spring Migrants with Dick Coles, Saint Louis Audubon Society member. Meet with Dick Coles and Barbara Lawton, convenor, in looking for early spring migrants at the Audubon Education Center. The birds will be easier to see before leaves reach maturity. Survey of migratory and resident birds will be included. Bring binoculars.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Spring Woodland Wildflower Identification with Gary Shackelford, Saint Louis Audubon Society member. Accompany Gary Shackelford for a day of field identification and survey of spring wildflowers at the Audubon Education Center. Use of keys in standard field guides will be demonstrated. A hand lens would be helpful. Bring sack lunch.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Star Gazing in the Spring Skies with Joel Gold, amateur astronomer. Join Joel Gold and Gary Shackelford, convenor, for an evening of star gazing at the Audubon Education Center. Joel's equipment includes a 10-inch reflecting telescope. Meet at 7:30 p.m. for a briefing session before star time. Bring binoculars.

MAY 1984

SATURDAY, MAY 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tree Identification and Survey with Katherine Chambers, Saint Louis Audubon Society member. Meet with Katherine Chambers and Jane Stuessie, convenor, for a morning of field identification of trees at the Audubon Education Center. Part of the program will be the development of a survey of woody plants. Special attention will be given to foliage, flowers and seeds.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Songs and Calls of Birds with Father Jim Mulligan, Saint Louis Audubon Society member. Walk with Father Mulligan and Connie Hath, convenor, for a close look at the migratory spring birds with special emphasis on their songs and calls. A spring survey of birds at the Audubon Field Center will be a part of this program. Bring binoculars and lunch.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Hunting the Herps with Edward Ortley, Saint Louis Audubon Society member. Join Ed Ortley and Bernadette Ortley, convenor, for a morning dedicated to finding and making a survey of creatures that live on the forest floor and in secret places at the Audubon Education Center.

SATURDAY, MAY 26, First Session of Nature Photography Workshop. See page 10.

RESERVATION BLANK

Make check payable to Saint Louis Audubon Society. Mail with this reservation blank to Saint Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis 63122.

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY AND ZIP: _____

Number of people _____ Members Nonmembers

April 8, Trees and Shrubs	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
April 15, Spring Migrants	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
April 21, Wildflowers	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
April 28, Star Gazing	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
May 5, Tree Identification	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
May 12, Bird Songs and Calls	\$2 _____	\$3 _____
May 19, Hunting Herps	\$2 _____	\$3 _____

May 26 and June 9, Photography Workshop
Donation \$25

ENVIRONMENT - 1984

March 22

10 A.M. - 2:45 P.M. SALAD BOWL RESTAURANT, 3949 LINDELL

EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT WILL SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF 1984 AND ANSWER QUESTIONS!

10 A.M.	REGISTRATION
10:20	WELCOME - BETTY WILSON, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CHAIRMAN, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS PANEL: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ENVIRONMENT POSITIONS - LEAGUE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
10:45	CURT LONG, PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI "INDUSTRY LOOKS AT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES" - DISCUSSION -
11:15	ROBERT SCHREIBER, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS - MISSOURI "THE STATE LOOKS AT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES" - DISCUSSION -
11:45	BREAK
12:00	LUNCH
1 P.M.	PANEL: TACTICS FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL: STRATEGIES FOR CONTROL DR. DAVID BEDAN, DIRECTOR OF WASTE MANAGEMENT, MISSOURI DR. JOSEPH EIGNER, PRESIDENT OF JOSEPH EIGNER, INC., CONSULTANT FATHER JAMES MULLIGAN, BIOLOGIST & PROFESSOR, ST. LOUIS U. DR. ROBERT L. POWELL, ASST. PROFESSOR OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING WASHINGTON U. GARTH F. FORT, DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY MANAGEMENT - MONSANTO CO. BETTY WILSON, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - DISCUSSION -
2:40	WRAP UP - DR. EIGNER
LUNCH:	\$8, MAIL REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO: ENVIRONMENT 1984 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, % S. CHILTON, 421 FOREST GREEN, 63119 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RESERVATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT 1984 - THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1984

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____ CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____

RESERVATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 19. SPACE IS LIMITED.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Cooperating organizations: St. Louis Audubon Society & American Lung Assn. of Eastern MO.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM VISITORS TO THE AUDUBON EDUCATION CENTER

When you visit the Education Center, please fill out the Saint Louis Audubon Society Trip Log (copy shown below).

Dick Coles and Father Jim Mulligan want this information for the environmental impact study they are making. Please record what you see and hear.

You will find these forms on the front porch of the house. If you cannot fill out the forms and leave them at the Center, mail them to Saint Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63122.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY TRIP LOG

Please record your observations as gathered during your visit.

Date: _____

Observers: _____

Weather: Temp. _____ Wind _____

Precip: _____ Sky _____

Condition of substrate: _____

Species encountered (in chronological order, more or less) (follow examples)

Location and activity or condition

Spring Beauty

Scattered in woods, up on south facing slope between cottage and stream bed. In bloom leaves are small.

Common Flicker

Female seen carrying nesting material, presumably breeding occurs nearby. Nest not found. Bird was flying westward, above parking lot.

ACTION ALERTS

S.2159: Cleaning Up Toxic Air Pollution

Just before the Senate went home for the holiday recess, Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), David Durenberger (R-MN) and Gary Hart (D-CO) introduced S.2159, the Hazardous Air Pollutant Control Act of 1983. S.2159 is a reasoned, strong response to the problem of cancer-causing air pollution and the Environmental Protection Administration's historic neglect of that problem. The bill would amend section 112 of the Clean Air Act to accelerate and strengthen control of such pollution. Please write to your Senators urging them to co-sponsor S.2159.

The Problem

Billions of pounds of potentially toxic air pollutants are spewed into our air every year. These pollutants can cause cancer and other serious diseases after long-term exposure to even small amounts.

One recent scientific study concludes that up to 21 percent of all lung cancers -- almost 20,000 cases per year -- could be prevented by tighter controls on all air pollutants (including pollutants regulated under other sections of the law besides section 112). Another study has measured certain cancer-causing air pollutants in urban areas at levels 15 to 30 times greater than naturally occurring background levels.

In the 13 years since Congress first passed the Clean Air Act, EPA has regulated only four toxic air pollutants. For the past few years, the agency has been studying 37 high priority pollutants, 12 of which the National Toxicology Program (an arm of the Department of Health and Human Services) has labeled as cancer-causing. EPA has done nothing to regulate these pollutants despite EPA Administrator Ruckelshaus's suggestion that this pollution may be responsible for hundreds of deaths a year.

WHAT the Bill Does

S.2159 would break this bureaucratic logjam at EPA by requiring the agency to decide, within three years, whether 40 chemicals are hazardous. This is approximately the same schedule proposed by EPA Administrator Ruckelshaus in testimony before the House of Representatives in November of last year. If EPA continued to delay and failed to meet these deadlines, pollutants would automatically be declared hazardous and regulation would follow.

If a pollutant deserved to be regulated, the agency would be required to write standards that protected the public health with an ample margin of safety. This is the same public health standard included in the current law, a standard that polluting industry would like to weaken. Industry would prefer a requirement that standards balance costs and benefits rather than fully protect the public health.

S.2159, once a standard has been issued, would require all factories emitting toxic air pollutants to acquire permits in order to operate. Only a permit process guarantees public participation and insures that facilities actually meet the standards.